

The saying that every country gets the leaders it deserves can be objectionable, insulting, despicable, even infuriating. But, is it true?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR “POLITICAL JUNKIES”

(viewing time 23 minutes)

INSIGHT = Discussions on *Exploring Fundamental Concepts* and *Investigating Parallel Themes* as listed below

CONTRIBUTING INFORMATION = Trading votes for future gain, and the roles of compromise and manipulation. How ethical is this? Can any government survive without engaging in these techniques?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION = Training youth in the strategies of politicking, its value for both future candidates and future voters

EXPLORING FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

EDUCATING THE CANDIDATE Who and what must the future candidate become?	EDUCATING THE VOTER Who and what was the candidate before?
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INVESTIGATING PARALLEL THEMES

1. What are the motivating factors that drive anyone to become a politician?	1. What personal qualities are required by your society for a politician to be supported?
2. What specialized education must a future candidate receive?	2. Which does your country respect more in its politicians, an educational or a military background? Why?
3. What must a politician be willing to sacrifice in order to govern?	3. What educational preparation do the schools in your country give to future voters? Is it adequate?
4. What ethical principles must he/she be willing to compromise?	4. What is the result of attaching labels to people?

This can be viewed in its entirety without breaks. Viewing time 23 minutes.
 The section concerns the qualifications and training needed by potential candidates in today's highly competitive marketplace. The electorate claims to want a politician who represents the "common man" but votes for the experienced, educated professional.

VOCABULARY ITEMS

Dork:	out of touch with society, stupid
Hand in the cookie jar:	sneaking something for one's own good; sometimes related to theft
If it's not broke, don't fix it:	(sometimes, "If it ain't broke..." grammatically incorrect, but commonly used) do not try to change a situation that already produces adequate results
Indictment:	formal accusation of a serious crime
Junkie:	someone who is obsessed with some particular thing
Milquetoast:	someone who is extremely timid (from a cartoon character named Caspar Milquetoast, which was created during the first half of the twentieth century)
Pol:	abbreviation for politician
Put off:	cause someone to lose interest
Rerun:	playing a television (or other) program over again...often many times, also repeating the same message again and again
Sitcom:	abbreviation for "situation comedy," a form of television genre that is often considered quite shallow because all problems introduced in the script can be happily resolved to everyone's satisfaction within the 30-minute show time
Stew:	a mixed up, often stressful situation

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Encourage the viewers to list several challenges currently facing their country. By a vote, select one. Form groups of 4-6 members. Each group selects one member to be the candidate. Then the group, together with the candidate, details their stand on the problem and instructs the candidate how she/he is to present their point of view. Allow 30 minutes, or more as needed, for the groups to complete their instructions and the candidate to (quietly) rehearse his/her speech. At the conclusion, candidates come to the front of the room and present their speeches. Voting can take place by show of hands, if desired.